



HR0438

LRB098 12320 GRL 46595 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate the members of Corn
4 Belt Energy Corporation on the 75th anniversary of their
5 cooperative; and

6 WHEREAS, Corn Belt Energy Corporation was officially
7 organized as Corn Belt Electric Cooperative on September 22,
8 1938 in Bloomington, Illinois, through the hard work and
9 dedication of a handful of local residents wanting to improve
10 living and farming conditions for themselves and their
11 neighbors; and

12 WHEREAS, Because of the lack of density, it simply wasn't
13 possible for the for-profit utilities to make a profit serving
14 rural areas with only a few farms or homes per mile of electric
15 line; with the help of loans from the Rural Electrification
16 Administration (REA), the people living in these rural areas
17 banded together to form member-owned and member-governed
18 electric cooperatives; and

19 WHEREAS, This group of local residents went door to door
20 signing up their neighbors to become members of Corn Belt
21 Energy Corporation and convincing them that a cooperative would
22 bring lights and power to the rural area; and

1 WHEREAS, Their hard work paid off and Corn Belt Energy
2 Corporation's lines were first energized on August 3, 1939,
3 initially serving 200 member-owners in Woodford and McLean
4 counties; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1999, Corn Belt Electric Cooperative merged
6 with Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative, creating the Corn
7 Belt Energy Corporation, which continues to provides reliable
8 electric service to member-owners in 18 counties; and

9 WHEREAS, For 75 years, the cooperative has served its
10 member-owners based on 7 guiding principles: voluntary and open
11 membership, member-elected and controlled boards of directors,
12 members' economic participation, autonomy and independence,
13 education and training, cooperation among cooperatives, and
14 concern for community; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
16 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
17 we congratulate the members of the Corn Belt Energy Corporation
18 on the 75th anniversary of their cooperative; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to Corn Belt Energy Corporation as a symbol of our
21 esteem and respect.